Wage increase for showroom employees of NTC in Tamil Nadu

140. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Unions and Members of Parliament last year regarding non-implementation of settlement arrived at under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act regarding wage increase for NTC showroom employees of Tamil Nadu subsidiary of NTC, arrived at on 9th April, 1987; and

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to implement the said settlement and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wage revision settlement is still under examination.

Implementation of the Award of Special Industrial Tribunal for Textile Labourers

141. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Coimbatore District Mill Labour Union (CITU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu demanding implementation of Award of Special Industrial Tribunal for textile labourers given on 23rd February, 1987; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to implement the said Award and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Award of the Special Industrial Tribunal, Madras for textile labourers given on 23-2-1987 has already been implemented by the mills under National Textile Corporation (TN&P) Ltd., Coimbatore.

Imposition of ban on the Export of crushed bones

142. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed any restriction on the export of crushed bones;

(b) whether Government are aware that any restriction of export on crushed bones reduces the price of raw bones and in turn it affects the livelihood of bone pickers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said restriction on export of crushed bones has been done to cater to the interests of big industrialists manufacturing Ossein and Gelatine; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider their decision relating to the export of crushed bones to save the livelihood of millions of poor people depending on this means of earning livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Export of crushed bones is allowed within a limited ceiling.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the availability of raw bones in the country and the requirements of crushed bones by Ossein and Gelatine industries, export ceiling is fixed. Actual export of crushed bones have been much below the ceilings fixed for each year. Demand for raw bones is dependent not only on demand for crushed bones but also on demand for Ossein and gelatine.

(d) No, Sir.

Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Punjab

143. SHRI P. N SUKUL:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken up the matter of Pakistan's

persistent encouragement to the terrorist activity in Punjab at the highest level with the Pakistan Government;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and when Government will do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The issue has been raised with Pakistan on several occasions at various levels. The Government of Pakistan have, however, been denying the allegations. The Ministry of External Affairs presented another Aide-Memoire to the Government of Pakistan in this regard on 15th April, 1988.

Problems of Jute Industry

144. *KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:* Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute industry at present is faced with a number of problems;

(b) if so, whether Government have since identified the problem; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The main problems faced by the Jute Industry are increasing competition from synthetic substitutes within the domestic as well as in the international markets, obsolete machinery and equipment, low productivity and managerial deficiencies.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Some of the important measures taken for revival of the jute industry are:

(i) Setting up of Jute Modernisation Fund of Rs. 150 crores with effect from 1st November, 1986 for modernisation of jute mills.

(ii) Setting up of a Special Development of Rs. 100 crores for restructuring/re-opening/rehabilitation of jute industry as well as for development of jute agriculture.

(iii) Enactment of a legislation i.e. Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 for mandatory usage of jute packaging material for certain sectors of the economy;

(iv) Waiver of Customs Duty on import of certain specified items of jute machinery and accessories with a view to encouraging modernisation programme of jute mills.

(v) Providing cash compensatory support for export of jute goods;

(vi) Purchase of jute goods for Government sector directly from jute mills at cost plus basis.

(vii) Operation of a buffer stock scheme of raw jute for bringing stability in raw jute prices.

India's balance of trade position

145. *SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA:* Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) with how many countries we have a favourable balance of trade and which are these countries; and

(b) whether Government's Export policy for 1988—91 has received applause from all quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The countries with which we had a favourable balance of trade during the first 9 months of the fiscal year 1987-88 (April—December) as compared to April—December, 1986-87 include the following:—

U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Hong Kong, Poland, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Egypt, Arab Republic, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria,